

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I apologize to the Chair. I had a discussion about further proceedings.

Which amendment did the Senator call up?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Amendment No. 57 by the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. STEVENS. Thank you, very much.

I now have a copy of it. It is my understanding that the Senator from South Carolina is not going to object to this at this time. I will not oppose the amendment either. But I do want to say that, as a result of the amendment of the Senator from South Carolina, there have been a series of pharmaceutical groups that contacted us concerning the inequities of the long delay in the processing of Federal permits for the pharmaceuticals in this country. I believe this is a matter that should be taken care of in the legislative proposal, but, if it is not, we will address it further this year in the Appropriations Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Minnesota.

The amendment (No. 57) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I am informed that 110 amendments have been filed to this bill. We have assigned task forces from the staffs of the various subcommittees to review those amendments.

Mr. President, we will notify Members if we find amendments we would object to. But I ask all Members to notify us when they would like to call up their amendments. It is the leadership's hope that this bill will be finished by tomorrow evening. Obviously, with 110 amendments, it is going to be a long night. But I would appreciate it if we could have some idea of when those amendments would be called up. I am hopeful they will be called up soon.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 143

(Purpose: To provide for dredging and snagging and clearing of the Truckee and San Joaquin Rivers and the dredging of shoaling on the Chena River)

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask the clerk to lay before the Senate amendment No. 143.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS], for Mr. REID, proposes an amendment numbered 143.

On page 18, line 15, following "fund:" insert the following: "Provided, That the Secretary of the Army is directed to use from available balances of the funds appropriated herein to perform such emergency dredging and snagging and clearing of the Truckee River, Nevada, and the San Joaquin River channel, California, as the Secretary determines to be necessary as the result of the January 1997 flooding in Nevada and California; and dredging of shoaling which has occurred downstream from the federal Chena River Flood Control Facility:"

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this is a direct use of funds that are already available. There is no budgetary impact on it. It deals with issues that the corps has informed us it needs authority for in three States. It has been cleared on both sides.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, we have no objection on the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Nevada.

The amendment (No. 143) was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I want to state that this amendment is by the Senator from Nevada that I called up. So it is not my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The RECORD will be corrected to show that the amendment just agreed to was offered by the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to, and I move that that motion be laid on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair inform the Senator from Nevada what the pending business is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no pending amendment.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 171

(Purpose: To substitute for the Endangered Species Act waiver a provision agreed to in the House Appropriations Committee)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for himself and Mr. BAUCUS, proposes an amendment numbered 171.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 50, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 51 and insert the following:

The policy issued on February 19, 1997, by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service implementing emergency provisions of the Endangered Species Act and applying to 46 California counties that were declared Federal disaster areas shall apply to all counties nationwide heretofore or hereafter declared Federal disaster areas at any time during 1997 and shall apply to repair activities on flood control facilities in response to an imminent threat to human lives and property and shall remain in effect until the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works determines that 100 percent of emergency repairs have been completed, but shall not remain in effect later than December 31, 1998.

Mr. STEVENS. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. STEVENS. I seek to inquire whether the Senator would be willing to enter into a time agreement on his motion to strike?

Mr. REID. Yes, I would. The ranking member of the committee wishes to speak. Other than that, I had no requests for time.

What does the manager of the bill suggest?

Mr. STEVENS. I am sure there are others interested in speaking. We have 110 amendments pending, so I will try to seek a time agreement on each amendment. I will defer this for a few moments until others involved are here. I would like to enter into a time agreement to vote on this amendment no later than 5:30, if possible.

Mr. REID. I will begin debate, I say to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, and while I am doing this, you will have the Cloakroom call to see how much time the ranking member and others wish to speak.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, we will contact Members to talk about that.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VISIT TO THE SENATE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL SENATE

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I introduce to the Senate the President of the Colombian National Senate, Senator Luis Londono.

#### RECESS

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess so Members might meet our friend from Colombia.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:59 p.m., recessed until 4:03 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GORTON).